Aurea Clavis:

OR, A

GOLDEN KEY

TO THE

CABINET of CONTRACTIONS:

Unlocking all the Miſteries (and ſeeming Difficulties) of an Engraven Sheet of

SHORT-HAND

Lately Publiſhed, Entituled, *A Regular and Eaſy TABLE of Natural Contractions by the Perſons, Moods, and Tenſes,* &c.

By *WILLIAM MASON*,
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It being nearly ſuited to His Late *Short-Hand-Book*, Entituled, *Arts Advancement*, &c. But more Exactly Adapted to a *Short-Hand*, in *Manuſcript*, which he now Teacheth.

This preſent CLAVIS is ſuited to the Meaneſt Capacity, and gives Directions how to Apply the ſaid *Contractions* to any other *Short-Hand:* Inſtance being given, at the End of this Book.

LONDON, Printed for, and Sold by, the *Author* aboveſaid: Alſo by *C. Coringsby*, at the *Golden Turks Head*, againſt St. *Dunſtan's* Church, in *Fleet-ſtreet*. *R. Cumberland*, at the *Angel* in St. *Paul's* Church-yard. *J. Back*, at the *Black-Boy* on *London-Bridge*; and other *Booksellers* in *London* and *Weſtminſter*, 1695.

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Cabinet of *Contractions*, &c.

ALL truly Ingenious Perſons who rightly underſtand the Nature, Uſe, and End of *Short-Writing* in general, will eaſily Deſcern, and as readily Acknowlege, that of all kind of *Contractions* of Clauſes or Sentences, none can tend more to a General and Univerſal Uſe, than *Contractions* made from the *Perſons*, *Moods*, and *Tenſes*, becauſe, in our *Engliſh-Tongue*, they are ſo generally uſed, that we can find but few Sentences without ſome of them.

The whole *Engraven Table* (which I ſhall henceforward Term *The Cabinet*) of *Contractions*, is (for the Eaſe of the Learner) Methodically Contrived and Made from the Letters of the Alphabet, Double Conſonants, and Vowels Places; yet, for the ſake of thoſe who never Learned the ſame *Short-Hand*, I have thought it neceſſary to Inſert ſo many of the Letters of the Alphabet, and Double Conſonants, as are contained in the ſaid *Cabinet*; thereby more eaſily to Unlock the ſame, and preſent to open view, all the Miſteries and Rareties therein Contained; which is the more readily done, by Obſerving the Alphabetical Order, and Uſefulneſs of the following Abſtract, together with the ſubſequent Rules and Directions given to Exemplify the ſame.

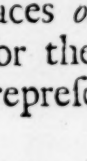
The Alphabetical Abstract.

	am,		he		sh. have had
	ar, are,		he be		she
	art		he did		should-st
	B, be, beest		he is &c.		they, thee
	cn, can-st		is, s		thy, thigh
	can-st be		may, maist		tho-u, though
	can-st do		my might-est		was, wast
	can-st have		mo, most, must		were, wert
	can-st ha. been		nt, not		way, wee
	can-st have done		not be		wo, would-st
	can-st have had		not do		would-st not
	can not		not have		we would
	co, could-st		not ha. been		we would not
	d, did, didst		not ha. done		would we not ?
	do, dost, doth		not ha. had		wl, wil, wilt
	h, have, hast, hath		ought-est		wil-t be
	ha. been		I ought to		wil-t do
	ha. done		ye ought to &c.		wil-t have
	ha. had		sh, shal, shalt		wil-t ha. been
	had, hadst		shal-t be		wil-t ha. done
	had-st been		shal-t do		wil-t ha. had
	had-st done		shal-t have		ye, yea
	had-st had		sh. have been		you, u
			sh. have done		you are, your.

Having

Having peruſed and diligently obſerved the foregoing Abſtract (which I have Collected in Alphabetical Order, from the forementioned Table, or Cabinet of Contractions) you may plainly perceive each Character to be naturally framed (either Directly or Contractly) from the Alphabet of Letters, Double Conſonants, or Vowels-places, either Seperate or Conjunct.

I have found, by above Twenty Years Experience in the Practiſe of this Art, (beſide many good Reaſons that I could offer) that *Three* Places *only*, are better than more, for the Six Vowels, being aptly repreſented by this Figure.



I ſhall briefly Explain the ſame.

The Perpendiculer or down-right ſtroke, is here ſuppoſed to be any *Conſonant* or *Character*, that may go before a *Vowel*, and the Three Dots are to ſignify the *Vowels* themſelves: Now conſidering the ſaid Perpendicular Stroke, as it is the Character for *t*, the higheſt Dot, aſſigned for the Vowels

a or *e* being ſet even with the Head of the Conſonant *t*, makes *ta*, or *te*,	thus	1.
So the Dot ſtanding in the middle of the ſame Character for *t*, makes *ti*, or *ty*,	thus	1.
And the loweſt Dot, ſtanding even with the Foot of *t*, makes it, *to*, *tu*, or *two*,	thus	1.

The foregoing Abſtract furniſhes yo with divers Examples, to which I refer you being unwilling to ſpend Time and Pape unneceſſarily; becauſe in Explication there of, all along, it will fall in my way to men tion the Vowels-places; For I deſign give a brief account of each Character i order, throughout the ſaid Abſtract, deſi ing you to Obſerve the ſame as we go along

1. Obſerve, in this preſent Art, the Character for *a* is always caſt upwards,	thus	/
So that the firſt word *am*, is Naturally made of the Characters for *a* and *m*,	thus	⌒

2. The Second Word *are*, is only the Character for *r*, almoſt the ſame, to that in Long-hand, } thus

3. The Third Character being *r*, and *t*, conjoyned, ſignify the Word *art*, } thus

4. The Fourth and Fifth Characters, ſtand both for the Letter *b*, ſignifying *be* or *beeſt*, } thus

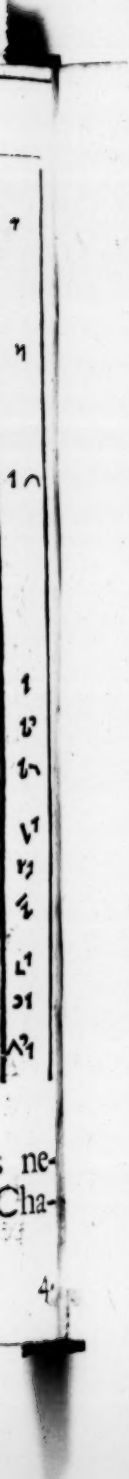
The Firſt being the Initial *b*, may be uſed Three ſeveral ways.

1. To begin words, as in theſe & the like. } *Examp.* *bear*, *blame*, *blind*,

2. To follow after (or in the place of) any Vowel, as in theſe, } *Examp.* *drab*, *ribs*, *ſober*,

3. To contract two or more Words together like one word, after a Vowel, as in theſe, } *Examp.* *he be* *might be* *we muſt be*

But Remember this Initial *b*, is never to be joyned to any foregoing Character.



4. On the Contrary, the Conjunct *b*, is *not to begin* words, but generally to joyn to ſome Conſonant or Character going next before it, either about the middle or end of the ſame; As in theſe and the like *Examples.*

forbear, *marble*, *curb*, &c.

5. So in Contracting words together, when the firſt ends with a Conſonant; as in theſe *Examples.*

can be, *canſt be*, *ſhal be*, *ſhalt be*, *will be*, *wilt be*,

Where you may obſerve, *cn* makes *can*, or *canſt*, *b* added, makes *can be*, *or canſt be*, *do* alſo added to *can* denotes *canſt do.*

6. The next Character is thus *cnh*, importing theſe words.

can have, or *canſt have*,

7. The Contracted Character for *hb*, being joyned to *cn*, make theſe words, *can have been*, *or canſt have been.*

thns

8. As the Letters, *cnhd*, Directly joyned, make *can have done*, or *canſt have done*. } thus

So *cnhd*, Indirectly joyned make *can have had*, *canſt have had*, } thus

9. The next Character for *co*, ſignify *could*, *or couldſt*, } thus

10. The Letter *d*, is *did*, or *didſt*, thus

11. A Dot in O's Place from the Letter *d*, implies one of theſe words, *viz.* } *do*, *doſt*, *doth*. } thus

12. As the Letter *h*, ſtand for *have*, *haſt*, or *hath*. } thus

13. So the Contract mark for *hb*, ſignifies *have been*, *haſt been*, or *hath been*. } thus

14. As by the Letters *hd*, Directly joyned, are underſtood, theſe words *have done*, *haſt done*, or *hath done*. } thus

15. So

15. So by the Letters *hd*, Indirectly joyned, are ſignified theſe words *have had*, *haſt had*, or *hath had.* thus

16. Hence it appears, that the Character for *hd*, is contracted into *td*, for the words *had*, or *hadſt.* thus

17. If to the foregoing *mark* for *had*, you joyn the Conjunct *b*, it denotes theſe words *had been*, or *hadſt been.* thus

18. And becauſe *d o n*, ſounds *done*, and the foregoing mark for *had* ends with *d*, therefore from the ſaid *d*, in the Place of the Vowel *o*, ſet the Conſonant *n*, and it plainly ſhows the ſame to be *had done*, or *hadſt done.* thus

19. The next Character ſeems more abſtruſe then all the reſt, till the Reaſon and Rule for it be declared; The mark for *had*, is as before, and the ſtroke under it, makes a Repetition, (according to the Rule in my *Arts Advancement*: *Pag.* 21. as well as that I now Teach) So that the words *had had*, or *hadſt had*, are written. thus

20. As the Character for *h*, with a Dot in the place of the Vowel *e*, make *he*. thus

21. So if after the ſaid *h*, you put the firſt *b*, inſtead of the Dot for the Vowel *e*, they make *he be* thus

22. In like manner, if you ſhould put any other Letter in the ſaid Place for *e*, it would make ſuch differing words as the Character in the ſaid place of *e*, doth ſignify, As in theſe, and the like *Examples*.

he did,
he doth,
he hath,
he had,
he is,
he was,
he were,
&c.

23. From

23. From the precedent Examples, you may obſerve, that *he is*, is made by putting *s*, after *h*, in place of *e*, So that its plain, the Character *s*, ſtands for *is*. } thus /

24. All the Vowels Places are Indicated, and Exemplified by the Three following Characters beginning with *m*, the words for *each* ſtanding againſt them. } thus

may, mayſt, me,)
might-eſt, my, (
mo, moſt, muſt 2

25. As the Character for *nt*, ſignifies *not*, and the Conjunct *b*, added make *not be*. } thus n

26. So any other Character added to the ſaid *nt*, for not, will make it plain what it ſignifies, according to theſe *Examples* whoſe difficulties have been already Explained, *viz.*

thus

not do,
not have,
not ha. been,
not ha. don,
not ha. had,

Whence Note, the contract mark for *nthbn*, which ſtands for *not have been*, is the only Character that was not before Explained, by naming the Letters thereof.

27. As the Letters *ot*, ſtand for *ought*, So adding a Dot to the ſaid *t*, in the place of *o*, makes it *ought to*, whence Note, that the *t*, ending *ought*, ſerves likewiſe for the *t*, begining *to*, ſo *I ought*, *to*, is.

thus

Where Note, the *firſt* Dot, is for the firſt Perſon *I*, and the *Latter* following *t*, in the place of *o*, makes *to*.

28. But

28. But when the words *ought to*, follow any other Perſon, and not the firſt Perſon *I*, in ſuch Caſe *ought to* may be better Expreſſed, by putting *t*, in the place of *o*, from the precedent Vowel, as, in theſe *Examples.*

he oug. to,
ſhe o. to,
we o. to,
you o. to,
they o. to,

29. As the mark for the Double Conſonant *ſh*, ſignifies *ſhal*, or *ſhalt*, ſo *b*, conjoyned, makes it *ſhal be*, or *ſhalt be*, and *d*, ſo joyned to *ſh*, makes *ſhal do*, or *ſhalt do*; For although *d*, ſtanding alone is *did*, and not *do*, yet (thus in conjunction) ſenſe will not bear to call it *ſhal did*, and therefore may be read *ſhal do*: Theſe being known, others that follow are eaſy.

thus

ſh, ſhal-t,
ſhal-t be,
ſhal-t do,
ſhal-t have,
ſhal-t ha.been,
ſhal t ha.done,
ſh: t have had,

30. If

30. If to the foregoing mark for *ſh*, you add a Dot in the place of the Vowel *e*, it makes *ſhe*. } thus

31. In like manner, a Dot put after *ſh* in the place of *o*, makes *ſhow*, and ſtand alſo for *ſhould*, or *ſhouldſt*. } thus

32. As the 24 Rule declared the Vowels places, following the Single Conſonant *m*, ſo this Rule repreſents the Vowels Places, after the Double Conſonant *th*, As in theſe words.

they, or *thee*,---

thy, or *thigh*,-

tho-u, *though*,

33. If you Obſerve the *Abſtract* (as you ought to do) going along you ſee the next Character begins with *w*, and having *s*, added to it, ſtands for *was*, or *waſt*. } thus

34. In like manner the next hath *r*, joyn'd thereto, ſignifying *were*, or *wert*.

The

35. The Third hath a Dot in the Place of *a*, or *e*, which makes *way*, or *we*. } thus

36. The Fourth hath a Dot in the Place of *o*, making it *wo*, and ſtands alſo for *would* or *wouldſt*. } thus

37. When any Conſonant or Character ſhall follow a *Vowel*, either in *Single* or *Compound-Words*, the ſaid Character ſo following the *Vowel*, muſt be ſet in the *Place* thereof, as *nt*, ſtanding after *w*, in the *Place* of *o*, makes *would not*, or *wouldſt not*. } thus

38. So the next Character is *w*, following *w*, in the place of *e*, and a Dot in the place of *o*, which Signifies *we would*. } thus

39. And when the Negative *not*, is put in the place of the Dot, they make theſe words, *we would not*. } thus

40. But when an *Interrogative* or *Queſtion* is aſked (whether it be *Poſitive* or *Negative*) the words are *Inverted*, or *Changed*, As in the theſe or the like *Examples*.

would he? ^ב
would he not? ^ג
would not he? ^ד
would we? ^א
would we not? ^ה
would not we? ^ו
&c.

41. If the Character for *wl*, Signifies *wil*, or *wilt*, then any additional Character joyned thereto muſt needs expreſs what the ſame do ſtand for, As in the 7 following *Examples*.

thus

wl, wil, wilt, ~
wil, or *wilt be,* ~
wil do, wilt do, ~
wil-t have, ~
wil-t have been, ~
wil-t have done, ~
wil-t have had. ~

42. As 'tis very clear that the Letter *y*, with a Dot after it, in the Place *of e*, makes the words *ye*, or *yea*.

thus ẏ

43. So

43. So'tis as clear that the Letter *u*, may Signify the word *you*, without any danger of miſtaking. thus –

44. And laſtly, It is no leſs manifeſt that the Letter *r*, joyned to the foregoing *u*, will ſufficiently expreſs theſe words, *you are*, or *your*. thus –r

Having thus Opened the Alphabetical *Abſtract*, and ſo far diſcovered the Uſe of the *Clavis*, as thereby to Unlock the Five firſt Drawers of the ſaid Cabbinet of Contractions, *viz.*

1. *The Perſons*,
2. *The Signs* of the *Potential Mood*,
3. The *Perſons* and *Signs*, &c. United.
4. The *Perſons* United with the *Four firſt Tenſes*; And
5. The *Perſons* United with the Two *Future Tenſes.*
6. I come now in the Sixth and laſt place to *Unlock* the Large, and longeſt

Drawer in the Cabbinet, (*viz.*) The *Perſons*, *Moods* and *Tenſes*, all United. And I ſhall here lay before your view Six *Examples* to every *Perſon* and *Sign* Orderly, ſhewing in words at length, what each Character ſtands for; Beginning at the *Upper* Corner on the *Left Hand*, and ending at the *Lower* Corner on the *Right Hand*: where Each *Character* may be read diſtinctly, all being derived from the foregoing Rules and Directions, As follow.

1.		*I may be*	3.		*He muſt be,*
		I may do			*He muſt do,*
		I may have			*He muſt have,*
		I may have been			*He muſt have been,*
		I may have done			*He muſt have done,*
		I may have had.			*He muſt have had*
2.		*Thou mighteſt be,*	4.		*She can be,*
		Thou mighteſt do,			*She can do,*
		Thou migh. have,			*She can have,*
		Thou mi. have been			*She can have been,*
		Thou mi. ha. done,			*He can have done,*
		Thou mi. ha. had.			*She can have had*

		We could be			*You would be*
		We could do			*You would do*
		We could have			*You would have*
5.		*We could have been*	7.		*You would ha. been*
		We could have done			*You would ha. done*
		We could have had			*You would ha. had*
		Ye ſhould be			*They ought to be*
		Ye ſhould do			*They ought to do*
		Ye ſhould have			*They ought to have*
6.		*Ye ſhould have been*	8.		*They oug. to ha. been*
		Ye ſhould have done			*They oug. to ha. done*
		Ye ſhould have had			*They oug. to ha. had*

The 48 foregoing *Examples*, being ſufficient to Enable the weakeſt Capacity to *Read*, and put in *Practice* all the reſt; I might now give over: But before I leave you, I have thought good to acquaint you further, that as the whole *Table*, or *Cabbinet* of *Contractions* contains near 700 *Characters* for *Poſitive* words, and Clauſes of Sentences, ſo any Ingenious Practitioner may (at pleaſure) increaſe their Number

Number to above 5000, by theſe two ways only.

Firſt by inverting or changing the *Poſitives* into *Interrogatives*, or Queſtions asked.

As for Inſtance, I ſhall turn ſome of the foregoing Clauſes into Interrogatives, or Queſtions asked; Thoſe particularly at Number 5, the Side before this, begining thus, *We could be*, &c. where, by comparing *theſe* with the *former*, you will *find* the words Inverted, turning the Then *Poſitives*, *Now* into *Interrogatives*, thus,

	could we be?		*could we have been?*
	could we do?		*could we have done?*
	could we have?		*could we have had?*

And ſo of any other.

2. By the Addition of the Character for *not*, (which is *nt*) you may turn both the *Poſitives* and the *Interrogatives* too, into *Negatives*; and ſeveral of them *Divers ways* alſo. As in ſome of the foregoing *Examples*.

	we could not be,		*we could not do,*
	could we not be?		*could we not do?*
	could not we be?		*could not we do?*

&c

Thus going over the *whole* Cabbinet, would Augment and Multiply the ſame to admiration: And as its Excellent Uſe is even beyond common conception; So withall, it carries ſo great a *Facility*, and Natural *Plainneſs* along in every thing, that I queſtion not but the meaneſt Capacity (if able to write Long-hand) may quickly become Maſter of this Art, for having once peruſed theſe Rules, and Learned the Three Places for the Vowels, he will find nothing either hard to his Underſtanding, or chargeable to his Memory.

Such Perſons who have been too long *grounded* in the *Practice* of any *Old Short-Hand*, ever to *forget* (and conſequently never to *forſake*) the ſame, may however reap much *advantage* hereby, in reducing their *Vowels* to *Three Places only*, (according to the Directions given in this Book,

Book, *Pag.* 6.) and thereby may eaſily apply theſe Rules of Contraction, to any *differing* Short-Hand, without altering the Foundation, or any Material part of the Superſtructure.

I ſhall give an *Inſtance* (for the ſake of thoſe who Practiſe the ſame) from a Book I firſt Publiſhed about 23 Years ſince, Entituled, *A Pen Pluck'd from an Eagle's Wing, &c.* And the better to manifeſt how theſe Contractions may become applicable to *It*, or any *other* Short-Hand, I ſhall lay before your view ſuch another Abſtract of this *Eagle's Wing*, as you had (in *Page* 5.) to the preſent Short-Hand I now Teach.

The

The Alphabetical Abstract *of the* Eagle's Wing, *&c.*

	am		*he did*		*she*
	are		*he is*		*should-st*
	art		*I*		*th, that*
	B, be, beest		*is, eyes*		*they, thee*
	can, canst		*may-st, me*		*thy, thigh*
	can-st be		*my, might-est*		*tho-u, though*
	can-st do		*mo-st, must*		*was, wast*
	can-st have		*nt, not*		*were, wert*
	can-st ha. been		*not be*		*way, we*
	can-st ha. done		*not do*		*wo-uld-st*
	can-st ha. had		*not have*		*would-st not*
	co-uld-st		*not have been*		*we would*
	did-st		*not have done*		*we would not*
	do-st, doth		*not have had*		*would we not?*
	hav-st, hath		*ought-est*		*wil, wilt*
	hav-st been		*I ought to*		*wil-t be*
	hav-st done		*ye ought to*		*wil-t do*
	hav-st had		*sh-al, shalt*		*wil-t have*
	had-st		*shal-t be*		*wil-t have bee*
	had-st been		*shalt do*		*wil-t have do*
	had-st done		*shal-t have*		*wil-t have h*
	had-st had		*shalt have been*		*ye, yea*
	he		*shalt have done*		*you*
	he be		*shalt have had*		*you are, your*

Thus the *Five* places for the *Vowels* of Old, are *now* Reduced to *Three* places *only* (as appear by the words which begin with *m*, and *th*, in the foregoing Abſtract, and more at large in the 6th. *Page* of this Book) which *Three places*, as they are far more Eaſy to *Learn*, and *Remember*, ſo are they alſo much more *Lineal*, and conſequently more *Eaſy to Read* when Learned.

This for a certain Verity I can aſſert from many Years Experience in the Practiſe hereof.

Now as this *Abſtract* at Laſt, is agreeable in *Words* to the Firſt, though as far differing in *Letters*, as *Each* one of the Alphabets differ from the *other*; yet an indifferent Capacity may perceive, that both tend to *Abbreviation*, anſwering the deſigned *End* of Contraction. And as I have drawn up *Two* ſeveral *Abſtracts* from two differing *Short-Hands*, for your Example and Imitation, ſo by the ſame Rule and Reaſon, any other Perſon may do the like (keeping to the ſame words) from

from any other *Old Short-Hand* (be what it will) that he hath ſo long Practiſed, as never to *forget* nor *forſake*, ti Death makes a Separation.

FINIS.

For lack of Room on this Side, I mu deſire my Reader to turn over, and peru the following.

Advertiſemen